Delay in issuing passports from Calicut Passport Office

1650. SHRI ARANGIL SREEDHA-RAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is long delay in issuing passports from Calicut Passport Office;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps are being taken to reduce the delay?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) Passport Office Koz-hikode is able to issue passports after six months of receiving application.

(b) (i) ' In 1991 about 2.05 lakh applications for fresh passports were received compared to 1.21 lakh re ceived in 1990.

(ii) Staff and budgetary constraints.

(iii) Manual writing of passports.

(c) Passport procedures have been Simplified to facilitate expeditious issue of passports services. The de tails are given in the statement. (Please refer to the statement ap pended to USQ 1593). Four more offi cers have been transferred to P.O. Kozhikode to speed up issue of pass port services.

Capture of fishing boats/fishermen by Pakistan

1651. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PAR-MAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases reported during the last two years of capture of fishing boats/fishermen by Pakistan from the Kutch-Saurashtra region of Gujarat;

,(b) the number of fishermen so far Repatriated and the number of them yet be repatriated to the country; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) Over the past two years, 25 fishing boats and 18l fishermen have been reportedly captured by Pakistan.

(b) 20 Indian fishing boats along with 140 fishermen were released ami repatriated in March-April, 1991. Five boats and 41 fishermen are yet to be repatriated; and

(c) We have approached the Go-vernment of Pakistan and initiated steps to secure the early release of these 5 boats and 41 fishermen.

रूस और भारत के बीच नई राजनैतिक सन्धि को अन्तिम रूप दिया जाना

1652. श्री राम जेठमलानी :
सरदार अजीत सिंह झरोड़ा :

क्या विदेश मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार का ध्यान 16 जनवरी, 1992 के "इंडियन एक्सप्रैस" में "इंडिया, रसिया फाइनलाइज न्यू पोलिटिकल ट्रीटी" शीर्षक से प्रकाशित समाचार की ओर दिलाया गया है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस संन्धि में शामिल किए गए प्रमुख मुद्दे क्या-क्या हैं और इस संबंध में क्या निर्णय लिया गया है ;

(ग) क्या उपर्युक्त संधि में यह निर्णय लिया गया है कि भविष्य में भारत और रूस के बीच रुपये और रूबल में व्यापार होगा ; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो इस संबंध में तथ्य क्या हैं ?

विदेश मंत्री (श्री माधवसिंह सोलंकी) : (क) जी हां ।